

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 59 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: With the Psalmist we pray:

Those who put their trust in You, Lord God, are like the mountains that cannot be shaken. They seem to absorb all the turmoil and controversy. They stand tall and strong forever.

Just as the mountains, as well as the depths of the sea coasts, surround this Nation, so, Lord, Your love holds Your people now and forever.

You will not allow the power of lies and half truths to dominate the air breathed in by the just, nor will You allow fear to paralyze their hands when it comes to defending what is right.

Do good, Lord, for those who seek the common good and are openhearted. Drive away those who are so deceived they create only indecision and dissension among the virtuous.

Give us peace, Lord, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CICILLINE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side.

GOP AGENDA OF MISGUIDED PRIORITIES

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN. Madam Speaker, Members: Ignoring the facts, the experts, political reality, and the best interests of the American people, the Republican leadership continues to embrace a spending plan already rejected by the Senate that would destroy 700,000 jobs and derail the economic recovery.

The Republican spending plan is a doctrine of misplaced priorities. They want to lay off teachers, cut Pell Grants, slash programs for homeless veterans, and reduce Head Start, among other shortsighted and harmful cuts.

Incomes and consumer spending increased in February, helping to expand the Nation's economy. First time jobless claims decreased by 5,000 a week. The total number of people receiving benefits fell to the lowest level in 3 years, due, in part, to increased hiring.

The February jobs report shows a gain of 192,000 jobs, a significant employment increase that marks the 12th straight month of private sector growth and a drop in the unemployment rate to 8.9 percent, the lowest level in almost 2 years.

Let's don't hurt our fragile recovery by the Republican majority shutting down the government.

FOREIGN POLICY AND CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, we are in the midst of a foreign policy and constitutional crisis. The administration has committed our Nation to a war against Libya in violation of the Constitution of the United States.

The administration has said they do not have full information about the rebels they are assisting. But it is clear that for the last 30 years, U.S. intelligence has had a relationship with prominent elements within the Libyan opposition.

Further, The New York Times today reports that elements of the opposition may be linked to al Qaeda, and that we are considering arming them.

When it comes to the war in Libya, the administration has subverted Congress and the United States Constitution. Tomorrow, I will present to Congress a definitive 1-hour response to the administration's Libyan war in the form of facts and questions. Congress

must challenge violations of our constitutional principles relating to war and peace.

The critical issue today is not the defense of Libyan democracy but the defense of American democracy.

RECOGNIZING PROVIDENCE VA MEDICAL CENTER

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Providence Veterans Affairs Medical Center for their outstanding service to the heroic men and women who serve in our Armed Forces.

The Providence VA Medical Center is an award-winning health care facility in Rhode Island providing personalized outpatient and inpatient health care to our veterans. Recently the Providence VA received the National Center for Patient Safety's 2010 Cornerstone Recognition Program Bronze Award for successfully providing high quality health services to our veterans.

The men and women who serve in the Armed Forces put their lives on the line every day to protect the freedoms that we enjoy here at home. We owe our troops, veterans, and their families our utmost gratitude and respect, in addition to exceptional medical care for their great sacrifices on our behalf.

I commend the Providence VA Medical Center for their excellent service to our veterans. Congratulations on your achievements, and thank you for your commitment to Rhode Island's veterans.

LOAN MODIFICATION CRISIS

(Ms. TSONGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, last year, I heard from a single father from Haverhill, Massachusetts, who put his life savings into purchasing a home. After a reduction in his salary forced him to modify his mortgage, his servicer stopped returning his phone calls, lost his documents, and refused to provide him with any information to help him modify his loan.

He wrote to me saying, "My bank told me that they had not received the application documents I had sent at the beginning of the modification process. It was ridiculous, as I have the original documents on file with the fax receipt. Nonetheless, I faxed everything again."

Over the course of an entire year, he called and re-sent his documents, speaking with multiple people, none of whom could give him an answer or even find that he had a modification in place.

This story represents just one of the many that I have heard from constituents. We should be doing far more to ensure that these lenders are playing by the rules.